

**News Focus**
**HDI Hardener Price Keeps Rising in 2018 As Hexamethylenediamine Price Skyrockets** 2018-07-23

PUDaily, Shanghai-- Into 2018, much to the surprise of many market players, the movement of HDI hardener price changed suddenly and began to show an upward trend. At present, the quotation for goods from some sources is hitting a high of around RMB 55,000/ton. Next, PUDaily will analyze the causes of the increase in HDI hardener price in the first half of the year for your reference. In 2017, the HDI market still operated in a seemingly low-key manner, but in fact there is intense rivalry below the surface. The supply continued to grow, while the growth in downstream demands as a whole slowed. In the context of increased supply, competition in domestic HDI hardener market became fierce. On the surface, the price remained stable...[More](#)


**Polyurethane Market**
**A Review of PMDI Market in H1 2018 and Market Outlook for H2** 2018-07-23

In the first half of the year, the price for polymeric MDI (PMDI) saw a movement pattern of a sharp fall, then a small rebound and finally a slight drop, as shown in the figure below. At the beginning of 2018, the declining PMDI price seen at the end of 2017 continued. In mid-March, the price fell to a low of RMB 18,000-19,500/ton. Later, the demand gradually recovered as sectors such as refrigerator, freezer and pipeline insulation entered the peak season. As a result, the PMDI price consolidated after a small rebound...[More](#)

**Those Special Members in the Family of Isocyanates** 2018-07-19

As we all know, isocyanate is a compound containing isocyanate group (-NCO). In the polyurethane industry, the commonly used isocyanates are those containing two or more isocyanate groups, such as toluene diisocyanate (TDI), methylene diphenyl isocyanate (MDI) and polyphenyl polymethylene isocyanate (PAPI). Here, PUDaily will introduce the rare and special diisocyanates to you...[More](#)

**Company Dynamic**
**Asahi Kasei to Acquire US Auto Interior Company for US\$1 bn** 2018-07-23

Japanese chemical maker Asahi Kasei is to acquire Sage Automotive Interiors, a US-based manufacturer of automotive interior material, for a total acquisition price, including debt, of US\$1.06 billion. An agreement regarding the acquisition was concluded between Asahi Kasei and US private equity firm Clearlake Capital Group Holdings, the 100% owner of Sage...[More](#)

**BASF Pursues a Capacity Expansion of the Integrated Ethylene Oxide Complex at Its Verbund** 2018-07-24

BASF pursues a significant capacity expansion of the integrated ethylene oxide complex at its Verbund site in Antwerp, Belgium. The project includes capacity expansions for ethylene oxide and for several downstream derivatives, such as surfactants...[More](#)

**German Chemicals Company Lanxess Plans to Invest More Than \$500 Million in North American** 2018-07-20

German chemicals company Lanxess (Cologne) has been bullish on the North American market for many years, and that's not about to change. It has announced plans to invest up to \$580 million in its North American assets through 2022...[More](#)

**Industry Glance**
**Praxair Signs Long-Term Agreement to Supply US Methanol in West Virginia** 2018-07-20

Praxair, Inc. (NYSE:PX) today announced it has signed a long-term agreement to supply oxygen to U.S. Methanol LLC's new facility in Institute, West Virginia. The customer's facility will produce methanol for use in the production of plastics, varnishes, medicines, adhesives and textiles...[More](#)

**CEFIC Expects Modest Chemical Production Growth** 2018-07-23

CEFIC, the European Chemical Industry Council, expects modest chemical production growth of 1.5% in the European Union in both 2018 and 2019. Growth will be similar to that recorded in 2017 but more volatile, mainly due to a less favorable global economic environment. The sub-sectors seeing most of the growth will be polymers, specialties, and consumer chemicals, according to the economic outlook (July-2018) issued on July 11 by Marco Mensink, director general of CEFIC...[More](#)

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